

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An optical fiber cable comprising at least one central strength member, at least one optical fiber, a metallic conductor means surrounding said fiber for transporting electrical energy through the cable and, surrounding said conductor means, an insulative layer of an insulative composition comprising mainly a mixture of polymers comprising at least one high-density first polymer and one low-density second polymer which has a lower viscosity than said first polymer, said insulative layer providing improved resistance to breakdown upon application of an electrical field; and
further comprising an armor layer disposed on the outside of said insulative layer.

Claim 2 (original): The cable claimed in claim 1 wherein said first polymer has a melt flow rate less than 6 g/10 min.

Claim 3 (original): The cable claimed in claim 1 wherein said first polymer is a high-density polyethylene and said second polymer is a low-density polyethylene.

Claim 4 (original): The cable claimed in claim 1 wherein the proportion of said second polymer is at most 20% by weight of said polymer mixture.

Claim 5 (original): The cable claimed in claim 4 wherein the portion of said second polymer is from 5% to 20% by weight of said polymer mixture.

Claim 6 (original): The cable claimed in claim 1 wherein said insulative composition further contains additives.

Claims 7-11: (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The cable claimed in claim 1, wherein said metallic conductor is immediately adjacent said optical fiber and said insulative layer is immediately adjacent said metallic conductor means.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The cable claimed in claim 12, wherein said metallic conductor means is annular.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The cable claimed in claim 2, wherein the first polymer has a density from 0.945 g/cm^3 to 0.975 g/cm^3 and the second polymer has a density from 0.915 g/cm^3 to 0.945 g/cm^3 and a melt flow rate at least two times greater than the melt flow rate of the first polymer.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The cable claimed in claim 14, wherein the first polymer is a high-density polyethylene and the second polymer is a low-density polyethylene,

wherein the proportion of the low-density polyethylene is from 5% to 10% relative to the high-density polyethylene.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The cable claimed in claim 3, wherein the proportion of the low-density polyethylene is from 5% to 10% relative to the high-density polyethylene.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The cable claimed in claim ~~14~~1, further comprising an external protection coating disposed on the outside of the armor layer.